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The new perspective on city living

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Irvington resident becomes first homeowner to overcome Predatory Property Lending



NJCA Executive Director Phyllis Salowe-Kaye (L) and Irvington's first Predatory Workout Solution homeowner Tawayna Hudson.

By Michael T. Lyle, Jr.
City News Editor

IRVINGTON — With mortgage prices and predatory property flipping schemes reaching new heights, it's not hard to wonder why Irvington native Tawayna Hudson never dreamed of owning the perfect home for herself and her family.

But last Tuesday, Hudson and her relatives were all smiles on a day where everything had worked out just right. Irvington Mayor Wayne Smith, Essex County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo and representatives from New Jersey Citizen Action gathered outside Hudson's backyard to honor the first and only homeowner to close on a new mortgage and benefit from a Predatory Lending Workout Solution. The new plan will enable Hudson to stay in her home, receive affordable mortgage and enable her to fix it up to code.

"It's been long and hard," said Phyllis Salowe-Kaye, Executive Director of NJCA. "Without the support of the banks and the assistance from FannieMae, this would not have happened. We're a long way from completion."

Hudson was one of 85 Essex county residents that

became victims of property flipping. Property flipping occurs when someone purchases foreclosed properties in total disrepair at very low prices, and then sells them in a short amount of time to unsuspecting first-time homebuyers at two to five times the initial cost paid—a practice conducted by Fauntleroy. The scam was later discovered in 2000 and resulted in several families being left without promises for home repairs and mortgages that did not reflect the value of their homes. Over 150 residents (mostly minorities) were discovered to be part of the scam. In 1998, Fauntleroy and his brother, Thomas, used the same tactics in victimizing more than 40 families in Monmouth County.

The U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development also helped stop pending foreclosures since most of the loans used in Fauntleroy's scam were FHA-insured.

Paul Aprigliano, Acting Director of the Newark Field Office of the FHA, was happy for his company to play a role in the process—and for Ms. Hudson.

"It's really good for her," said Aprigliano. "She's become a symbol for others that have been taken advantage of."

See IRVINGTON on page 10

Ex-P.O.W. Shoshana Johnson honored



Congressman Elijah Cummings (far right) presents an award to former P.O.W. and Army Specialist Shoshana Johnson (center) while Congressman Donald Payne (third from right) watches on.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Army Specialist Shoshana Johnson was recently honored at the U.S. House of Representatives for her heroism and sacrifice in the Iraq war. Congressman Elijah E. Cummings, Acting Secretary R.L. Brown Lee, and Shoshana's mother Eunice joined with several other political leaders from across the country in saluting the former POW for making a tremendous sacrifice in serving her country.

Although Johnson joined the Army to serve as a chef for those on duty, destiny soon called her to combat. In mid February, Johnson was deployed out to the

Persian Gulf to help in the U.S. effort to overthrow Saddam Hussein's regime. But within days of the beginning of the war, Johnson suffered gunshot wounds in both ankles and shortly became the first African-American woman to be taken captive as prisoner.

Despite this unfortunate dilemma, Johnson's plight resonated with all of America and the world. Several online prayer and dedication sites were launched in support of her, but Johnson's mother had faith and little doubt that her daughter would return safely.

Twenty-two days later, Johnson was rescued from U.S.

Marines' forces and her mother's prayers were answered.

"I've never prayed so hard, 'cause we've been praying all of our lives," said Eunice. "But I really, really, I mean, I prayed."

Upon returning home, Specialist Shoshana Johnson, a mother of a two-year-old girl, was recognized as one who represented strength and faith.

"We are here to commend a hero who represents the highest ideals of patriotism and sacrifice," said Cummings. "In the midst of her captivity, we saw a determined young woman who displayed bravery and fearlessness. And for that, we salute her."

First Lady visits Horton Elementary to stress importance of reading

By Michael T. Lyle, Jr.
City News Editor

NEWARK — Last Tuesday morning, eagerly young kindergartners and first graders of Dr. William Horton Elementary School were treated with a surprise visit from First Lady Dina Matos McGreevey. The First Lady decided to stop by the Newark school as part of her tour of state elementary schools to emphasize the importance of learning to read. Inside the Rosemary Hughes Library, the First Lady read a selection of short stories to the group, then spoke on using the long summer to read at least three books and why it was



First Lady Dina Matos McGreevey (c.) with Horton Elementary Principal Rosemary Hughes (l.) and Vice Principal Antonia Oliveria.

See FIRST LADY on page 10

Two New York Giants honored

WEST ORANGE — The Minority Athletes Networking, etc., Inc. (MAN) recently honored New York Giants Defensive Linebackers Dhani Jones (second from left) and Brandon Short (second from right) at the 12th annual Awards Benefit Dinner at Mayfair Farms in West Orange. Jones and Short were honored in recognition of their ongoing community outreach achievements. MAN's mission is to positively influence disadvantaged youth who reside in the Tri-state area's inner-city communities. Both are shown receiving their awards with New York Times sports writer William Rhoden (first from left) and former Giants linebacker Harry Carson (first from right).



Educational Emmy Awarded

NEWARK — Rafael Hernandez Performing Arts Elementary School in Newark was awarded an Educational Emmy for Technical Achievement for their original musical film "In the Blink of An Eye" by the National Television Academy. The honor came as part of the 2003 National Student Television Awards. Each participating student took home an Emmy pin for their accomplishments.

(From left to right): Drama teacher Anita Bland, 8th Grader Yaris Rivera, 8th Grader Peter Braun and Film Production Teacher James Manno.



Donna M. Simmons MD
appointed Assistant director of pediatric emergency medicine



NEWARK — Donna M. Simmons, MD, has been named assistant director of pediatric emergency medicine for Children's Hospital of New Jersey at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, an affiliate of the Saint Barnabas Health Care System. In her new role, Dr. Simmons will supervise the care of emergency injuries and illnesses for the department, which treats more than 27,000 pediatric patients annually.

A resident of the Bronx, NY, Dr. Simmons joins Children's Hospital after having served as an attending physician and assistant director of pediatric emergency services at St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital in New York. A graduate of Temple University, Dr. Simmons received both her bachelor of arts and medical degrees from there. Her post-graduate training includes a pediatric internship at Duke University in Durham, NC; a pediatric residency at Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia; and a fellowship in pediatric emergency medicine at Montefiore Medical Center, Bronx, NY.



Honorary Degree Recipients — New Jersey City University presented honorary doctor of humane letters degrees to civil rights activist Myrlie Evers Williams and corporate leader and education advocate Dennis M. Bone (right) at the recent commencement ceremony for its College of Education and College of Professional Studies. Ms. Evers Williams, the widow of Medgar Evers who continued her late husband's fight for racial equality while working for more than three decades to ensure that his assassin was brought to justice, and Mr. Bone, president of Verizon New Jersey Inc. and chairman of the nonprofit organization, New Jersey Reads, were congratulated by John J. Moore, Esq. (second from left), chairperson of the NJCU Board of Trustees who conveyed greetings from the Board, and Dr. Carlos Hernandez, NJCU president.



Faye Zealand honored — Thirty six Newark residents participated in Bloomfield College's 130' Commencement exercises and received their bachelor's degree. A total of 226 students participated in the ceremony in which the independent, four year, co-educational institution conferred Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees. Honorary doctorates were awarded to Terrence and Faye Zealand (right), cofounders and executive directors of the AIDS Resource Foundation for Children (ARFC) in Newark, and Bloomfield College President John F. Noonan, who completed his 16 year term as president on May 30.



Business Award — Dr. Richard H. Fabris (second from left), a professor of business administration at New Jersey City University and founder of the University's Department of Business Administration, presented NJCU's second annual "Richard H. Fabris Distinguished Business Alumni Award" to Brenda Cox ('96) (third from left), vice president and community development officer for The Provident Bank. Ms. Cox, who serves as the alumni representative on the President's Strategic Planning Committee at the University, was congratulated by (from left): Dr. Marilyn Ettinger, chair of the NJCU Department of Business Administration; Dr. Carlos Hernandez, NJCU president; Dr. Sandra Bloomberg, dean of the NJCU College of Professional Studies; and Paul M. Pantozzi, chairman, CEO, and president of The Provident Bank. The Award was presented at the University's 2003 "Business Reunion and Delta Mu Delta Induction Ceremony."

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Nation/World BRIEFS

BUSH TO VISIT AFRICA IN EARLY JULY

WASHINGTON, DC — President George Bush will visit Senegal, Nigeria and South Africa in early July, say White House officials. The visit, which has not yet been formally announced, will be the latest in a series of recent moves by the Bush administration to emphasize its Africa policy.

In December 2002, the White House announced that Bush would visit Africa early in 2003. But the next day the trip was postponed because of "a combination of domestic and international considerations." Although the White House has not yet announced the purpose of Bush's African visit, it may be used in part to garner support for stationing U.S. troops in Africa.

GHANA EVACUATES NATIONALS, FEARING REPRISALS

ACCRA, GHANA—Ghana said it was sending a warship and three planes to evacuate its citizens from Liberia, amid fears that they may be attacked by Liberians angry that the Ghanaian government refused to arrest Liberian President Charles Taylor during his flying visit to Accra last week.

Taylor was indicted for war crimes by the UN-backed Special Court in Sierra Leone during his brief visit to Accra on June 4 for the opening of peace talks with rebels who now control most of Liberia. However, the Ghanaian government ignored a request by the court to arrest him and send him to Freetown.

MUHAMMAD ALI IS FIRST ALCU CHAMPION OF LIBERTY

WASHINGTON, DC — The American Civil Liberties Union recently presented the inaugural ALCU Muhammad Ali Champion of Liberty Award for Heavyweights in the Arts, Business, Science and Sports to the great boxing legend himself. The award was established in Ali's name to recognize the contributions to civil liberties made by outstanding Americans from all walks of life. ALCU represented Ali in his fight to regain his boxing title after standing up as a conscientious objector. After a five-year battle for religious freedom that went all the way to the Supreme Court, the Justices reversed the conviction in 1971.

Blacks should lead quest for social justice

By Hazel Trice Edney

BALTIMORE (NNPA)—Democratic National Committee Chairman Terry McAuliffe is urging African-Americans to take the lead in fighting for social justice as candidates from both parties compete for their support in next year's presidential election.

"In this upcoming political season, we need African-Americans to lead the call to restore opportunity and equality in government to all people, regardless of race, ethnicity or gender," McAuliffe said

Thursday in Baltimore at the annual convention of the National Newspaper Publishers Association. "African-Americans have always stood firm on the principle of opportunity and equality for all Americans."

McAuliffe recently witnessed Blacks taking the lead on an issue that was considered unjust. He and the DNC were strongly criticized for proposing to fire 10 staff members, all of them Black. The layoffs were called off after Black political insiders challenged the proposed cuts.

In his address to the NNPA,

which represents more than 200 Black publishers, McAuliffe acknowledged that Democrats had made a mistake.

"The press reports of last week on staffing changes were the result of miscommunication—for that I take full responsibility," McAuliffe says. "I am chairman of this great party today due in part to the support of many African-Americans and I am extremely proud of the role that African-Americans have played and continue to play in the Democratic Party, and look forward to continuing to expand

that role."

Two prominent African-Americans publicly expressed objections to the staff cuts. Donna Brazile, chair of the DNC's Voting Rights Institute and Minyon Moore, former DNC chief operating office, pressed party officials to reverse their decision.

While McAuliffe accepts responsibility for the layoff debacle, he warns that layoffs may still be necessary because of budget limitations. Given the public uproar, however, it is unlikely that only Blacks will receive pink slips.

continued on page 10



PATH Exchange Place Station Open on June 29th

An important step toward revitalizing the region

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey is proud to play a major role in rebuilding Lower Manhattan and the region. The progress we're making is inspired by the perseverance, and dedication, of the entire community. By this fall, PATH service to Lower Manhattan will be restored — a significant milestone in the rebuilding effort. When the Exchange Place Station reopens, it will provide more transportation connections, revitalize neighborhood businesses and support the local economy. Bringing back these vital connections delivers on a promise, showing our unwavering commitment to renewal and rebuilding.

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THE PORT AUTHORITY OF NY & NJ

Editorial

Two counties, two cities, one river

We commend the Regional Business Partnership and Fleet Bank for hosting the Newark Insiders Forum where those interested in the future of Newark can hear first-hand the many developments that are taking place.

The Forum moderator described the ensuing discussion as a tale of "Two counties, two cities, one river," describing waterfront development on the Passaic River in Newark and Harrison. Plans outlined for Newark and particularly the Ironbound section of Newark were extensive and all inclusive with heavy emphasis on pedestrian traffic and community accessibility to the waterfront, NJ PAC, Penn Station and areas in the Ironbound. Millions will be spent to turn Newark's waterfront into a destination location with all the amenities now enjoyed by places such as the Inner Harbor in Baltimore.

Newark Business Administrator Richard Monteith having presented comprehensive plans introduced Peter Higgins, chairman of the Harrison Redevelopment Authority. Mr. Higgins gave a presentation concerning the extensive plans for Harrison including the Soccer Stadium, which is the centerpiece for Harrison's development.

What was most evident throughout the Forum was the fact that Harrison after disassociating its development from Newark seemed to move very quickly and with the blessings of the State, et al. On the other hand, Newark still struggles with the patronizing rhetoric of the suburban nay Sayers intact on Newark remaining in her place.

Fortunately for Newark, the RBP and others interested in promoting the vision of Newark keep finding ways to help Newark return to its former status as the premiere City in New Jersey.

"Sustainable Development for Urban America"

By Marc H. Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League

I took part in an important ceremony of the United States Conference of Mayors, whom I was privileged to serve as President during my service as Mayor of New Orleans; and in doing so, I better understood the past and present of the organization I now lead, the National Urban League.

I had traveled to Denver for the annual meeting of the Mayors to applaud the election of James Garner, Mayor of Hempstead, Long Island, a suburb of New York City, as their president for the coming year.

In my brief remarks, I noted that the Conference and the Urban League share a prominent moment in history. Whitney M. Young, Jr., the league's brilliant leader during the 1960's, gave a powerful speech before the Conference in 1965—the first African-American invited to do so by the organization.

I promised the Conference that the Urban League of today would work to fulfill the pledge Whitney Young had made then: To continue both through our national headquarters and through our local affiliates to put our ideas and expertise on urban issues at the

"Sustainable development touches every aspect of what we do everyday in our communities"

disposal of mayors and other local officials across the country.

There's no doubt that under the leadership of Jim Garner we'll have great opportunity to do so. Garner, a Republican and the first African-American elected mayor on Long Island, is now in his fourth term leading Hempstead's 56,000 residents. He's promised to vigorously push the Conference of Mayor's initiative for "sustainable development" for urban areas.

This means having a comprehensive vision for your city that culminates in a comprehensive master plan that will allow your city to be competitive today and for generations to come," he said in his inaugural address. "Sustainable development touches every aspect of what we do everyday in our communities—smart transportation to move people to where the jobs are, housing opportunities for all our resi-

dents...and addressing crime and public safety issues to create a balanced quality of life."

The Conference of Mayors isn't blinded by tunnel vision in its focus on improving the quality of urban life: A recent study stated it commission found that metropolitan areas generate more than 80 percent of the nation's employment, income and production of goods and services.

But the report also found a situation worth ringing the alarm bells about: the nation's metropolitan areas lost more than one million jobs in the last two years, and the predictions for the immediate future are not good.

The study predicted that America's twenty largest metropolitan areas will have an employment growth rate of just one-tenth of one percent—essentially flat.

And that's the best they're hoping for, because it assumes the recently-enacted tax package will help deliver a strong boost to the economy in the second half of this year.

If that boost doesn't materialize, it's likely the largest metropolitan areas as a whole will lose jobs—something the nation can ill afford.

As it is, polls have shown an increasing sagging of morale among the ranks of the

recently-employed-but-now-unemployed: as the overall unemployment rate stands at a nine-year-high of 6.1 percent; and the number of former job-holders who've now exhausted their unemployment benefits stands at an all-time high; and the cuts cities and states have been forced to make in social programs have pushed millions of America's neediest citizens through the holes in the safety net.

These are among the reasons the Conference of Mayor's initiative is urgently needed. And they're among the reasons why the National Urban League will do all it can to support this bipartisan effort. For one thing, look at our name: We are the National Urban League.

We were formed nearly a century ago to help the African-American migrants flooding into the urban North and West gain the education and skills to become productive members of society.

Now, we have 105 affiliates in 34 states and the District of Columbia. Our mix of programs has grown enormously, but our core mission hasn't changed. That mission was stated cogently in the Urban League's first pre-World War I slogan: "Not Aims, but Opportunity."

Roadblocks To Justice

By Marian Wright Edelman
President, Children's Defense Fund

So many Americans have been preoccupied with the war in Iraq, the war on terrorism, and their struggles to hold on to or get a job in this period of economic downturn, that they are unaware of the other war underway that will affect everybody living in America for decades to come.

It is the Bush administration's and Congress' radical war on poor children and working families, which will dismantle the role of government as we know it in meeting the needs of the poor, the young, the disabled, and working families. It's an unprecedented assault, which seeks to starve the federal government of resources to meet our children's needs. Providing massive tax cuts to the rich in 2001 and 2003 while dismantling child investments like Head Start, health care, child-care, and education will leave millions of children behind. And the reckless tax cuts enacted by Congress in 2003 and signed by President Bush last month amidst economic

downturn and growing deficits will provide nothing to millions of families, including a majority of Black and Latino children. However, these children will disproportionately suffer from callous and huge budget cuts and freezes.

The most egregious tip of the huge iceberg of unjust budget priorities occurred in the child tax credit provisions of the 2003 Bush tax cut bill.

In the \$350 billion tax cut bill, which will mostly benefit the wealthiest Americans, congressional leaders with White House approval, eliminated a \$3.5 billion provision to immediately extend the child tax credit to 12 million low-income children in hard working civilian and military families. In an unjust, callous last minute act, help to families with incomes between \$10,500 and \$26,600 was eliminated.

Yet every millionaire will get a \$93,500 tax break this year. After a huge public outcry, this flagrantly unjust action was swiftly corrected by the Senate by a vote of 94-2 without adding to the deficit. The House should do the same

immediately. Yet House leaders are putting up roadblocks and trying to give still more tax breaks to higher income families by insisting on a \$82 billion bill to correct a \$3.5 billion injustice.

Rather than passing the Senate bill, House Republicans are pushing for still more expensive new tax cuts for high income families and trying to bog down and deny immediate help for low income working people who need to pay their utility bills and put food on the table right now. Poor children in working families should not be held hostage to more political shenanigans.

How can the House of Representatives and the White House continue to compound a profound injustice to poor children by proposing a \$82 billion child tax credit bill that would give six times more child tax credit help to higher income families than to low-income families unjustly left behind in the first place?

A wife whose husband has been in Iraq since Christmas is overwhelmed with a brand new baby as she struggles to

make ends meet. Their income of about \$20,000 is barely enough to pay the bills. Yet the Bush tax cut left her and one million other military families behind including 260,000 on active duty. Crystal Smith, a 28-year old first time mom with a 17-month old daughter, told parents and children participating in a recent stroller parade to House Leader Tom Delay's office, that she needs the tax credit help to get by on her minimum wage salary because she never wants to go back on welfare.

I hope the White House and Congressional leaders will correct the gross injustice denying hard-working families like these child tax credit refunds while lavishing hundreds of billions of dollars on millionaires.

The White House and the House of Representatives should see that the Senate version of the child tax credit is passed now so that families who need help most will get it without further enriching families who need help least.

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Trained doctors can mean less disparity in Health Care

By Vicki T. Lee
Special to the NNPA from the
Baltimore Afro-American

BALTIMORE (NNPA)—The scenario: A guy walks in who is different from you. He's dirty, doped up. As a physician, you haven't been taught to touch and you are afraid of him? How do you care for him?

"I've seen [occasions] when patients have come in with gunshot wounds, knife accidents, auto accidents or any type of trauma, and young doctors, especially, treat them as second-class citizens," said Dr. James Wood, Harbor Hospital chief of orthopedic surgery.

The issue of health disparities involves racism, gender and religious biases, and environmental overtones, Wood said, as well as issues of sexism.

The Department of Health and Human Services notes six areas of illness and death where communities of color experience serious disparities in health care access and outcome: stroke, heart disease, diabetes, infant mortality, cancer and HIV/AIDS.

A former U.S. assistant surgeon general and director of the Bureau of Primary Health Care, Dr. Marilyn Hughes Gaston is now the chief medical officer for National Minority Health Month. There are five major areas, Gaston said, that are key to eliminating health disparities:

- * Access to care: communities of color are more likely to be uninsured, poverty level, with little or no transportation.

- * Training: professionals need required courses that deal with cultural competence for nurses and doctors.

- * Quality of care: improves health care for communities of color; better accountability and cultural competence.

- * Research

- * Cultural competence, exposure to different environments; community involvement

in health centers to bridge "cultural competence" chasm.

"Our community is not aware of the crisis we are in with health," Gaston said. "I'm surprised we are not marching in the street."

According to preliminary data from the National Vital Statistics Report, the age-adjusted death rate for the African-American population is 30 percent higher than for the White population. The life expectancy for African-Americans at birth is 71.8 years, compared to 77.4 years for Whites. Calculations note that African-American men will barely see their 70th birthday, while White men can expect to reach at least 75. African-American women may see their 75th birthday, while White women can expect to become octogenarians.

"Almost 50 percent of deaths are preventable," Gaston said. "We need to get focused, educated and make health a No. 1 priority." Part of that preparation includes continuing to focus on and address how lack of cultural competence hinders adequate provision of health care. Wood can recall medical school classmates telling him, "You know, I've never been close to anybody who was African-American."

"In medical school I was the only African-American, and to a lot of people, their [sole] Black experience," he said. "When you look at the number of professors in the majority medical schools, you don't find very many of color; there is a real void. [There] may or may not have been diversity training, so that's probably the norm rather than the exception in the medical field."

The environment in which an individual was raised, Wood said, as well as the medical school environment, is a strong predictor of physician-patient relationships.

"The health care system needs to be revamped."

"Many people are raised in environments that have hindered their ability to be as hands-on and personable as patients would like," Wood said. "It may be difficult for a person with that description to administer the kind of care that would make the patient feel comfortable."

"But [patients] are very perceptive," Wood continued. "They can tell when a person does not really feel comfortable touching, talking, administering to them, or taking their phone calls at night."

Having the caregiver give comfort, Wood said, "is as important as the technological, medical rote competency. If you give comfort then, people always get something."

Throughout Wood's career — serving East Indian, Asian, African-Americans and Caucasian patients at Harbor Hospital, and Jewish, Christian, African-American and Russian patients at Sinai Hospital, and a mix of cultures while practicing sports medicine in California — he has never perceived cultural diversity an issue.

"I like to treat patients like I'm treating family members," Wood said. "I think cultural competence is important for the

doctor and the patient."

Patients can contribute to eliminating cultural issues by speaking up, Dr. Gaston said.

"We need to be able to confront the medical system better than we do," Gaston said. "If you went to a hairdresser who messed your hair up, you would tell them off. Why don't we do that with physicians?"

One problem, Gaston said, is that "we feel that the physician knows more than we do, but this is a partnership. We have as much information in this partnership as the physician."

"I firmly believe that the physician wants to be able to connect with their patients," Wood said, "[but] I think that physicians don't have enough forums to go and get that level of training."

One of many organizations working to eliminate health disparities in communities of color, NMHM initiated its "Reduction in Premature Deaths Campaign" to assess the rate that communities of color are losing their members and construct workable solutions for prevention.

"We can definitely change the statistics," Dr. Gaston said. "The health care system needs to be revamped. We need to look at how we are doing business, and communities, individuals and families need to prioritize our health and what we need to do to live healthier lives."

Newark prepares for West Nile Virus this summer

With the summer season underway, Newark Mayor Sharpe James recently announced that the City's Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) would focus public attention to the potentially fatal West Nile virus re-appearing in the Newark area.

The Newark Department of Health & Human Services will distribute fliers in English, Spanish, Portuguese and Creole to Newark residents and businesses to raise public awareness about the West Nile Virus (WNV), a mosquito-borne virus, and protection measures to reduce contact with the mosquito.

The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) say the West Nile Virus is transmitted through the bite of a mosquito that has in turn picked up the virus by feeding on an infected bird. The virus is not transmitted from person to person.

In humans, the virus has an incubation period of 3-10 days. Symptoms may appear sudden-

ly and are often characterized by high fever, headache, backache, fatigue, and nausea. Most people recover from the infection within two weeks. However, West Nile Virus can be fatal, especially for the elderly. There is no known cure.

"The purpose of issuing a mosquito control checklist for residents, businesses and the community is to heighten awareness of the dangers the virus poses," said Mayor Sharpe James.

CDC emphasizes that mosquito control efforts by individuals and communities should include the following:

- * When outdoors, wear clothing that covers the skin, such as long sleeve shirts and pants; spray clothing and exposed skin with insect repellent.

- * Reduce outside activity at dawn, dusk, and during the evening.

- * Check containers, trash cans and swimming pools for accumulations of standing water that can become breeding areas for mosquitoes.

Health Briefs

VACCINATIONS URGED, PRAIRIE DOGS BANNED TO HALT MONKEY POX

The federal government recently recommended smallpox vaccinations for all those exposed to monkey pox, including pregnant women and children. It also banned the sale and distribution of prairie dogs in the nation and prohibited the importation of all rodents from Africa.

Recently there have been 54 cases of monkey pox under investigation in four states. Of the 54, Indiana reported 23, Wisconsin 20, Illinois 10, and New Jersey 1.

OBESITY FASTEST GROWING HEALTH THREAT

Tobacco is the largest cause of death in the United States, but obesity and a general lack of physical fitness is rapidly catching up and needs to become a priority for the country's healthcare system, says Julie Gerberding director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "We just recalculated the actual causes of death in the U.S. and we did see that obesity moved up very close to tobacco, and is almost the number one health threat," she said.

YOGURT CAN HELP BURN CALORIES AND FAT

Eating more yogurt may help your weight-loss efforts easier. Researchers from the University of Tennessee found that yogurt helped trigger the body's fat-burning ability—increasing weight loss and fat loss. The new study, conducted by lead researcher Dr. Michael Zemel, professor of nutrition at the University of Tennessee, found that individuals who included Yoplait Light yogurt as part of their weight loss plan lost significantly more weight compared to others who simply reduced calories. The yogurt eaters lost 22 percent more weight, 61 percent more body fat, and 81 percent more stomach fat during the 12-week study.



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Remembering the Middle Passage

The Middle Passage. The name itself sounds so innocent. But the term hides one of the world's great crimes against humanity, when millions lost their lives in the horrid voyage across the Atlantic from home into slavery.

Those millions, though nameless, are not forgotten. Every year, at various points along the northwestern edge of the Atlantic, thousands gather in ceremonies of remembrance. Drummers and dancers invoke the gods. Prayers rise and tears fall. Friends embrace and raise hands to connect to the ocean's long-held, unspoken secrets. And the descendants of the survivors of the world's worst Holocaust remember.

On June 14, on a New York City beach facing that ocean, one such gathering included artists and griots representing the width and breadth of the Diaspora. A procession was led by drummers to the water's edge. Then, the ceremony climaxed when families and friends threw flowers into the ever-swelling ocean, and prayed.



Kam's Kapsules

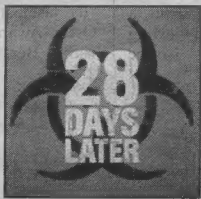
For movies opening June 27, 2003

Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle



(PG-13 for violence, profanity, sensuality and sexual innuendo) Cameron, Drew and Lucy Liu return for another round of higher-octane action but with Bernie Mac as the black Bosley, Demi Moore as a fallen angel and cameos by original angel Jaclyn Smith and the almost-grown Olsen Twins. Crime caper has heavenly honeys trying to solve a string of witness protection program murders.

28 Days Later



(R for profanity, nudity and gory violence) British sci-fi thriller about an uncontrollable virus that threatens to wipe humanity as it leaves infected Londoners in a perpetual killing rage. Apocalyptic plot has barricaded survivors, after a month of entombment, as afraid of each other as they are of the scourge.



E Briefs entertainment news

— Kim Bowman

Legendary Singer Smokey Robinson honored



Grammy Award singer Smokey Robinson was recently inducted into the National Black Sports & Entertainment Hall of Fame. On June 19, The Apollo Theater Foundation presented "A Miracle on 125th Street," - an enchanting evening with Smokey Robinson where he performed tunes from his forthcoming album.

Roc-A-Fella Records launches Roc Music

Roc-A-Fella Records will celebrate the launch of Roc Music, with a 7 city tour. The new division specializes in R&B, Alternative, Pop & Rock. Reil & Allen Anthony, the first artists to be signed, will host the events. "Roc-A-Fella Records is known as a rap brand, & we want to establish Roc Music as it's own brand," Roc-A-Fella Records VP Kenny Burns said.

Angie and Niko welcomes new baby boy



Rapper & NY radio personality Angie Martinez gave birth to a healthy baby boy yesterday. Niko Ruffin, weighed in at 9 pounds & is 21 inches tall. "This is my second child, I have two boys," an excited Niko told AllHipHop.com shortly before the child was born. Niko is the couple's first child. Martinez has been on maternity leave from Hot 97 since March.

Houston Rockets Steve Francis starts new record label



It's been a relative long time since an NBA baller ventured into the music arena. But, we suppose, since it's now the off-season all that's about to change.

Houston Rocket's super-guard Steve Francis recently set off on his industry dreams by launching his new record label and is seeking new talent. Isoh Entertainment has one act signed, female singer T'Neq and according to Francis, he has his aims for the business set high. "I'm looking to be a big player, one day," Francis told the Virginia Pilot. "Whether it happens overnight, or years from now."

Halle Berry sues former homeowners



Halle Berry recently filed a \$2 million suit against the former owners of her Beverly Hills mansion. She says they sold her a dilapidated house that needs \$1 million in repairs. On the other hand, the homeowners, Jonathan and Alison Roth, slapped a pre-emptive suit against Berry, stating that she was aware that the property was being sold "as-is" in 2001.

"American Idol", Ruben hits the big screen



Big things keep happening for Ruben Studdard. The "American Idol" winner is about to do his thing on the big screen. Studdard will have a cameo role in the new Scooby-Doo movie, "Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed." The film will again star husband and wife team Freddie Prinze Jr. and Sarah Michelle Gellar. Studdard will, surprise, sing a song in the movie. It'll be in theaters next March.

Former Hot 97 personality Star is attempting to find a way out of a non-compete clause from his former employer, Emmis Communications. Star & GM Barry Mayo had a dispute over two 30k checks, resulting in Star smashing various gold & platinum plaques in the studio. Star was seeking to renew his contract with Hot 97 for a reported \$2.7 million dollars when he left the station.

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Pfizer **Fleet**

Ang Lee adapts "The Hulk" to the Big Screen

Review by Kam Williams

Ang Lee has proven to be rather adept at successfully adapting to any genre of film asked of him. Lee, an NYU classmate of (but no relation to) Spike Lee, served as cinematographer on Joe's Bed-Stuy Barbershop, the brilliant student film which lay the groundwork for *She's Gotta Have It* (1986) and the rest of Spike's career.

Mr. Lee is best known for *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* (2000), the magical, martial arts fable which was nominated for ten Academy Awards, including Best Director.

Now, the versatile filmmaker has tackled *The Hulk*, the Marvel super-hero originally created by the legendary Stan Lee way back in 1962. The popular comic book character was featured in a made-for-TV movie and subsequently spun into a television series, which enjoyed a modest run from 1978 to 1982 and pretty much disappeared. So, I doubt that there was ever any clamor to bring *The Hulk* to the silver screen.

The Hulk is a surefire hit,

but not one without several significant flaws.

First, the picture is far too long, clocking in at a tedious 2+ hours to tell a story that needed only 90 minutes. Second, it devotes a great deal of time introducing characters, ostensibly at the expense of action sequences. Third, we are teased for about an hour before the Hulk finally appears, a delay, which left me wondering whether I might have wandered into the wrong theater.

Fourth, the unsatisfying story line is obviously little more than a shameless lead-in to an upcoming sequel. Fifth, the Hulk is entirely computer-generated and resembles Shrek so much that I had a hard time getting that lovable ogre out of my head. Sixth, the militaristic plot panders to a predictable, post 9-11 sense of patriotism, with cheap touches like yet another French villain (ala *Matrix 2*, *The In-Laws*, etcetera), in this case, a vicious, mutant French poodle.

All those faults aside, director Lee certainly contributes significantly to the genre with the introduction of the novel device of dividing the screen

into a number of panels periodically, a trick which lends a comic book feel to the viewing experience. He must also be credited for an imperceptible interface of his real and cartoon characters, a trick which can't be easy when you're attempting to blend the superhuman with the sublime.

The Hulk stars Aussie Eric Bana in the title role with Oscar-winner Jennifer Connelly (for *A Beautiful Mind*) appearing opposite as femme fatale Betty Ross.

Here's a snap summary, in 25 words or less: As with every would be, comic book superhero, David Banner develops his special powers after an unfortunate accident involving over exposure to gamma rays. As a result, the mild-mannered geneticist morphs into an enormous, enraged, green beast anytime he loses his temper. The challenge this misunderstood mongrel faces is to understand exactly what he has become while trying to deal with a world that sees him only as a monster.

Not bad, but not Ang's best either.

**Very good (2.5 stars)
Rated PG-13**

Halle Berry's "Red Hot" biography tells all!

"Red Hot Halle: The Story of an American Best Actress," the fascinating life account of Oscar Award winning actress Halle Berry, is hitting the shelves of bookstores nationwide, William H. Kelly Publishing Company has announced.

"Red Hot Halle" is by Kelly Kenyatta, bestselling author of titles on R&B and hip hop artists Aaliyah, Destiny's Child, Dr. Dre and Eminem.

Says Kenyatta, "The book will give you a feel for Halle the real person, not just the movie star. There's so much good information about the acclaimed actress that we could have easily called the book *Encyclopedia Hallica*."

"Red Hot Halle" is intriguing and revealing. You'll meet Berry's "first love," the boy who caught her eye when she was just 11-years-old and kept her interested for many years to come.

Find out how Berry lived the glamorous life as a teenager, dating a famous older man and traveling to London to compete for the Miss World title. The book is captivating. It shows a Halle Berry who, though wealthy, glamorous and



famous, is very much like many other women who have been slapped around by adversity. Berry dealt with unkind lovers and suffered rejection on a number of occasions. Importantly, Berry's story is inspiring because it tells of her will to learn from her mistakes and keep moving forward.

"Red Hot Halle" is chock full of information about the history making actress. It is the "complete" unauthorized biography about the movie star. Through exclusive interviews with Berry's first love, high school friends, boyfriends and colleagues to excerpted interviews throughout Berry's career, her full and controversial life is richly depicted.



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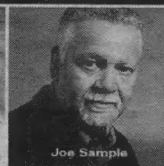
Jazz Unwrapped

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Sporty Progressive Sophisticated

First Lady visits Horton Elementary to stress importance of reading



First Lady Dina Matos McGreevey speaks to Horton Elementary first graders on the importance of reading last Tuesday in Newark.

continued from page 1

important. "Reading is everything," she said to the students.

Indeed, Ms. McGreevey has made early childhood literacy one of her top priorities in her agenda. She claims that 30 percent of New Jersey's youth lacks reading skills, but hopes the visit to Horton Elementary and other schools throughout the state will help better the cause.

"Our goal is to get them to develop a love for reading in as many ways as possible," said McGreevey. "It can be fun in one way for (the kids) to read a different book each month or with their parents."

Principal Rosemary Hughes—whom the library is named after—was pleased with the visit and the response from her young "scholars."

"It was very important for them that (McGreevey) came," said Hughes. "They need to continue their ready so that they can be ahead later on."

Irvington resident becomes first homeowner to overcome Predatory Property Lending

continued from page 1

Including Hudson, the NJCA—the largest independent citizen overseer organization in the state—identified the other 149 residents and immediately took action to protect their residential status. Hudson's Workout Solution was the first of any kind for victims of predatory lending. NJCA anticipates all of the other families will get through the

process by early August.

Now that Hudson is certain that her place is safe and secure, she can call it "Home Sweet Home"—finally.

"I felt numb not knowing this would happen," said Hudson, who received grants from Essex County and Irvington to make the renovations to her home for code compliance. "At least now I can focus on getting my house fixed."



Hudson's all smiles on becoming a new homeowner.

Blacks Should Lead Quest for Social Justice

continued from page 3

With African-Americans voting Democratic in national elections 80 to 90 percent of the time, Democrats realize the value of their most loyal voting bloc. "We absolutely will not beat Bush and his Right-wing Congressional colleagues without the help of the African-American community," McAuliffe says. "The Democratic Party needs the active support of African-Americans across the board and across the country."

The McAuliffe speech was not unlike other pre-election pitches to inspire Black voters. But those pitches are likely to fall on deaf ears if the party continues to bungle efforts to respect the Black vote. News of the botched firings came as top Democrats in Congress were also criticized by Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-Md.), chairman of the Congressional Black

Caucus (CBC), for selecting so few African-Americans for committee staff positions.

In March, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee had no African-Americans among its first five staff hires. In April, the Democratic side of the House of Representatives Select Committee on Homeland Security likewise hired only White staffers in its first five positions.

Meanwhile, leading Democrats are also calling for more Black input into policymaking. Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-S.D.) is teaming up with the CBC for an African-American Leadership Summit for June 26 on Capitol Hill. The summit, in the planning stages for several months, is aimed at establishing a policy dialogue between local and state Black leaders and national Democratic lawmakers.

CBC spokesman Doug Thornell says the summit will provide an opportunity to reaffirm the party's commitment to the Black community. "There's some sense out there that Democrats take the Black community for granted and are out of touch with a lot of what's going on in the Black community," Thornell says. "Not only is this a reaffirmation, it is a chance to see what we are doing."

Republicans have also stepped up their efforts to reach out to Black voters. Republican National Committee Chairman Marc Racicot says their efforts are scaring Democrats.

In his speech, McAuliffe didn't sound as if he were frightened. "The Democratic Party has always and will continue to be the party of opportunity and we will stand up and fight for a society where everyone has the opportunity to move up."

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- * Road Maintenance Salt, Bulk
 - * Furniture & Furnishings (Household)
 - * Road Maintenance Salt, Bags
 - * Pest Control, Exterior Baiting (re-adv.)
 - * Sewer Cleaning & Video Television Inspection
 - * Air Compressors, Mounted (Over 15 HP)
 - * Charter Services: Air Travel US Youth Games, San Francisco, California (re-adv.)
 - * Computer Hardware and Peripherals, Fire (Mobile Data Computer and Accessories)
 - * Maintenance & Repair, Swimming Pools
 - * Maintenance & Repair, Trucks Over One Ton Capacity
 - * Maintenance & Repair, Facsimile (Fax) Machines
- THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2003
- * Arts & Craft Supplies
 - * Facsimile (Fax) Machine Cartridges
 - * Vaccine, Influenza & Pneumococcal

No bidder may submit more than one bid. Proposals shall be submitted in a sealed envelope, plainly marked to indicate the subject of the proposal. Contract documents, including surety requirement, may be obtained at DIVISION OF CENTRAL PURCHASE 828 BROAD STREET, 3rd. FLOOR, NEWARK, N.J. mailed bids will be accepted and will be opened at the time all sealed bids are received and announced.

All bids are subject to the provisions of Chapter 2, revised Ordinance of the City of Newark, Sec. 2:4-14(A) entitled, "Contracts with City and stipulations as to prevailing wages and working conditions". Contract or contracts will be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, the right being reserved to reject

any and all bids and to waive informalities therein and to award contract or contracts for the whole or any part thereof.

The City reserves the right to increase or decrease the amount of the contract to cover actual requirements needed for the contract period.

Bidders must comply with chapter 33, P.L. 1977 requiring stockholders and partnership names.

Companies/firms awarded contracts for goods, services and construction will be required to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975 C. 127 (NJAC) 17:27. Carolyn McKnight, CPM, RPPO, QPA City Purchasing Agent

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION CITY OF NEWARK SET-ASIDE PROGRAM

Sealed proposals will be received from Minority Business Enterprises and/or Women Business Enterprises ONLY from 10:00 to 10:15 A.M. on date indicated and then publicly opened and read.

THURSDAY, JULY 3, 2003

- * Meals Delivered Services, Prisoners

No bidder may submit more than one bid. Proposals shall be submitted in a sealed envelope, plainly marked to indicate the subject of the proposal. Contract documents, including surety requirement, may be obtained at DIVISION OF CENTRAL PURCHASE 828 BROAD STREET, 3rd. FLOOR, NEWARK, NJ mailed bids will be accepted and will be opened at the time all sealed bids are received and announced.

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Calendar

Community

Project Re-Direct/ Youth & Family Services is looking for people who are interested in becoming a child's mentor. For more info call Sharon D. Berry at 1-888-868-9697.

Youth Cinema Schedule Mondays at 10:30 a.m. at the Newark Public Library & Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m. at the Newark Museum.

MONDAY JUNE 30, JULY 2

Youth Cinema will show *Whitewash, Children's Stories from africa, Volume III*. For more info call 973 596-6550.

ONGOING — JUNE 29

Newark — Aljira will host Dancing in the Park exhibit, Wed - Fri 12:00 - 6:00 p.m., Sat 11:00 - 4:00 p.m. For info call 973 622-1600

ONGOING — JULY 30

Cranford — Union College will offer a "Effective Writing" 8-week non-credit course from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM to enhance your writing skill and career marketability. For more info call the College's division of Continuing Education at 908- 709-7600.

ONGOING — SEPT 8

Jersey City — Liberty Science Center presents an exhibit of Sue, a *Tyrannosaurus Rex*. For more info call 201-200-1000.

ONGOING — OCT 16

Newark — Newark Downtown District will host Common Greens Farmer's Market from 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. in Military Park. For more info call 973-733-9333.

WED, JUNE 25 — JULY 30

Newark — The 29th Annual Newark Black Film Festival begins with the showing of *Everything's Jake* at 7:00 p.m. at the Newark Museum. For more info call 973 596-6550.

FRIDAY, JUNE 27

New York — The Metro New York Chapter of the National Black MBA Association presents this years "Signature" Social Mixer and Fundraiser at 7:00 p.m. Other professional organizations in both New York and New Jersey are welcome. For more info call 212 439-5100 or 917 743-2981.

SATURDAY, JUNE 28

East Orange — The Historical Society of East Orange, Inc. will sponsor its fifth annual tour of East Orange's many places of worship at 9:00 a.m. Tickets are available at City Hall by contacting Ms. Goldite T. Burbage or Evette Jennings, Evanbow Construction at 973-674-1250.

Newark — Newark Public Library will host Poet On from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., 5 Washington St. For more info call 973-705-8253.

Newark — Newark Public Library presents Juneteenth Poetry & Music with Sekou Sundiata at the library. For more info call 973-705-8253.

Newark — NJ Historical Society will host Walking Tour of Newark from 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. 52 Park Place. For more info call 973-596-8500.

JUNE 29, 30, JULY 1

Newark — Newark Bears will host the Penn Road Warriors for a home game at Riverfront Stadium. For more info call 973-483-6900.

MONDAY, JULY 7 — 11

Newark — Rutgers Newark begins Girls Basketball Camp at Rutgers' Golden Dome Athletic Center from 8:30 am - 3:30 pm. For more info call Kevin Morris at 973 353-5474 ext. 228.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9

Cranford — Union County College located at 1033 Springfield Ave. will offer a Microsoft Excel XP workshop. For more info call 908-709-7600.

SATURDAY, JULY 12

Newark — NJ Historical Society will host a Genealogy Workshop from 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., 52 Park Place. For more info call 973-596-8500.

MONDAY, JULY 14 — JULY 18

Newark — Scarlet Raiders Boys summer basketball camp ages 7 to 18 at Rutgers Golden Dome Athletic Center begins in July. First session is from July 14 - 18 and the second session is August 4 - 8. For more info call Joe Loughran of Scarlet Raiders at 973-353-5474 ext. 223.

SATURDAY, JULY 26

Newark — Newark Public Library will host Jersey Bounce from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., 5 Washington St. For more info call 973-705-8253.



SATURDAY, JULY 12 — B. B. King presents Reggae artist Maxi Priest in concert at 8:00 & 10:30 p.m. For more info call 212-997-4555.

Heartbeat

ONGOING

St. Barnabas Health Care System will offer several maternity and parent education classes at Newark Beth Israel, Clara Maass and St. Barnabas. For more info please call each hospital directly for class schedules, dates, costs and to register. Clara Maass-Women's Health Center at 973-450-2890; Newark Beth Israel-Parent Education at 973-926-2642 and St. Barnabas - Women's Health Department at 973-322-5360.

Newark — Beth Israel Medical Center offers free program, "Look Good, Feel Good" for women dealing with the effects of Cancer treatment and need assistance with their make-up and hair styling. For more info call 973-926-7609.

Business

ONGOING

Newark — The Women's Center of Essex County College is sponsoring a series of seminars, support groups during Spring 2003 Semester. For more info call 973-877-3395.

SATURDAY, JUNE 28

Springfield — Mywayhome and American United Mortgage Corporation will co-sponsor a homeowner seminar from 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. For more info contact Mywayhome at 888-422-6992 or visit www.homeowner-shipnow.com

Artz

ONGOING — JUNE 27

Newark — Newark Museum presents Image Maker to the stars - Focus on Photography Ball with

works of celebrity photographer Timothy White. For more info call 973-596-6550.

ONGOING — JUNE 28

New York — George Wein & Festival Productions presents the JVC Jazz Festival at various venues in New York City. For more info call 212-501-1390 or visit <http://www.festivalproductions.net>.

ONGOING — JUNE 29

Montclair — Luna Stage presents "Sandpilot" The premiere of a powerful new drama by Ron McLarty, directed by Victoria Pero and starring Cary Barker and Richard Edward Lang. For more info call 973-744-3309. Luna's Stage, 695 Bloomfield Ave.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

Newark — NJ Symphony Orchestra will host Community Partners Concert at 7:30 p.m. at NJPAC. For more info call 1-800-255-3476.

New York — B.B. King's presents rap duo Mobb Deep with special guest C-Rayz Walz and Anya. \$25 Doors at 9:30 Show at 10:30 pm. For more info call 212-997-4555 or Ticketmaster at 212-307-7171.

WED, JUNE 25 — AUGUST 31

Newark — The Newark Museum presents the film, *Half Past Autumn: The Art of Gordon Parks*, a legendary American Artist. For more info call 973-596-6550.

FRIDAY, JUNE 27

Newark — NJ Symphony Orchestra will host NJSO Summer Parks Concert 2003 at Branch Brook Park at 7:30 p.m. For more info call 1-800-255-3476.

Newark — Newark Symphony Hall will host Talent Night at Symphony Hall, 1020 Broad St. at 8:00 p.m. For more info call 973-242-8858.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9

Newark — Artist Gordon Parks will be the honored guest at the Newark Black Film Festival's screening of the documentary about his life, entitled *Half Past Autumn: The Works & Life of Gordon Parks*. For more info call 973-596-6550.

Newark — Aljira Host Dancing in the Park from Wed-Fri, 12:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m. and Sat, 11:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. at Aljira, 591 Broad Street. For more info call 973-622-1600.

SATURDAY, JULY 12

New York — B.B. King's presents Maxi Priest in concert at 8:00 p.m. & 10:30 p.m. \$25 adv \$30 DOS. For more info call Ticketmaster at 212-307-7171 or 212-997-4555.

Religion

ONGOING

Newark — Greater Service Fellowship Church invites you to Sunday morning service at 9:00 a.m. and Wednesday Bible study at 7:00 p.m. If you have questions, come get the answers. For more info call 973-848-1711.

SATURDAY, JUNE 28

Newark — Bethany Baptist Church presents an Annual Outdoor Market Square from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm. VENDORS WANTED. For more info call Sisters Jean Dupree at 973-676-5447 or Bertha Miller at 973-371-6493.

MONDAY, JUNE 30

Newark — NJPAC will host the Mormon Choir at 7:30 p.m. For more info call 1-888-GO-NJPAC.

MONDAY, JULY 7 — 11

Parsippany — Phillips Metropolitan Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in Newark will host it's annual Conference at the Hilton Hotel. For more info call Diana Jones at 973 625-7768.

Mail or email your calendar events and photographs at least two weeks in advance to:

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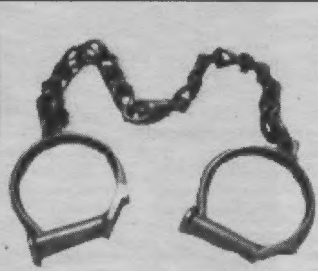
Black Slavery in the 20th Century? Yes

By Ron Walters

The recent story of a man, now 104 years old, out of rural Louisiana, asserts that his family was still in slavery in the 1960s. I believe him. In 1997, there was a story in the Washington Post by Len Cooper, a Black journalist, who said that he remembered stories in his own family about people who were still in slavery in the South in the 20th century. This prompted him to go to the National Archives to try to find some information on this hunch. He found it in the boxes of materials on the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

I was shocked when I read the story, so I went to the National Archives in downtown Washington, D.C., and asked for the NAACP boxes for 1920-1940. In them I found letters from Black people in several places in the South saying, in effect, that they were still in slavery: They were being brutalized, they could not get away, they were not being paid. In their own words, some said that the sharecropper system had them in a situation "worse than slavery."

Apparently, some of these cases were passed on to the U.S. Justice Department for investigation. Now, the Justice Department field offices in the South have often functioned in collusion with the racist county sheriffs who ran the convict-lease system. Under this system, the sheriffs would charge a Black person with a crime, lock him up, then lease him out to the nearest plantation owner, who would often



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put the prisoner back in slavery, legal slavery. By the way, this was permitted in the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, which outlawed slavery "except as punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted."

In any case, the Justice Department did investigate and indict some slavers in the 20th century. To find it, you have to look in another set of boxes of the Justice Department 1920-1950, where the files are labeled "Slavery/Peonage." The last case that I saw was the prosecution and sentencing of the Dial brothers who ran a plantation 35 miles outside of Birmingham, Ala., and kept

Blacks in slavery in 1946. Len Cooper says that the last case he found was in 1950. So, the fact that some Blacks were still in slavery in the 1960s is not far-fetched.

This means that in some areas in the South in the 20th century, even during the Civil Rights Movement, Whites were still practicing slavery, because if one or two cases were discovered you can be sure there were many others that were not. But even this mild evidence also says that we have to stop this lie that "slavery ended in 1865" that so many people are telling, just because they are ignorant of the facts. Legal slavery might have ended, but if you can enslave Blacks legally by criminalizing them, when did that end? Common sense says that you can't instantly stop a practice that existed for 246 years, from 1619 to 1865. It takes a long time. And so it did with slavery.

I can't help wondering how widespread this was. When did slavery actually end and how many people can say that they know where people were kept in slavery in 20th Century

America? We need to talk to our old timers to see how much of this is true and whether their stories can be substantiated in various localities.

Some of the organizations working on African-American reparations, such as the National Coalition for Blacks for Reparations in America (N'COBRA), or the Famer-Pellman group or the Reparations Coordinating Committee, have developed law suits against the government or private corporations.

In many cases, the evidence rest on the experience of our old timers they have found. Will more of them now come forward to tell their story?

A modern corrective on this story is important because the lie that slavery ended 138 years ago is being used by opponents of reparations and in general by conservatives to block this movement. But Blacks themselves need to know that the link between slavery and their lives in 2003 is much closer than they think.

If true, and it is, how does that explain the life circumstances of many Blacks with respect to wealth, employment skills, education, and the like?

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